

# Maine Newborn Hearing Program Advisory Board

**Date: March 14, 2008**  
**12:00 to 4:00**

**Members Present:** Carrie Ouellette, Cindy Brown, Deb Stroud, Dr. Romy Spitz, Eileen Peterson, Karen Hopkins, Karen Perry, Kristen Shorey, Louise Packness

**Program Staff:** Betsy Glencross, Amy Peaslee

**Interpreters:** Mary Jane Grant, Tina Morrison

**Members Absent:** Annette Bowman, Dr. Brenda Medlin, Harriet Gray, Karen Harrison, Michelle Markie

**Moderator: Betsy Glencross**

**Scribe: Amy Peaslee**

**I. Approval of minutes from: September 26, 2007 accepted.**

## **II. Program Updates**

- **MNHP-Betsy Glencross**
  - Board Info: Dick Aronson, who was our DHHS representative has left his position, so that seat will need to be filled
  - Katie Blanchard has left her position as Office Assistant to MNHP. No word yet on possibilities on when/if the position will be filled.
  - Site visit to all 33 Birth facilities done by the end of 2007.
  - CDC Regional Site visit report now available. Copy in everyone's packets. CDC is happy with the progress that we are making.
  - A document with hearing data for 2005, 2006 and preliminary 2007 data was provided in everyone's packets. Eileen suggested that Betsy send her a copy of the data and she would send it out with a note to the Maine Academy of Audiologist mailing list suggesting that they get their 2007 reports in to MNHP as soon as possible.

### **Action Items:**

**Next Steps:** Betsy to email data to Eileen, Eileen will get it out to MAA and ask for them to get their 2007 data submitted.

**Responsible Person:** Betsy and Eileen

**Time Frame:** within 1 week after meeting. (Betsy emailed Eileen March 18th)

- The application for the HRSA Grant- (Starts 09-01-08) is due March 21, 2008. This is a three-year grant (Toni is the principal investigator for it.) Grant pays for the database, Interpreters, Audiology Consultant, Parent Consultant, printing expenses for educational materials and etc. The CDC Grant application for the next three-year cycle (starting 07-01-08) is due April 25<sup>th</sup>. This grant pays for things like staff salaries, computers, more of the 'business expenses.'
  - Toni wanted to know if anyone on the board was wanted to write support letters. Due before March 21, 2008 to be included in the HRSA application. Letters can be written in a way that doesn't specify the individual grant, so

they can be used for both applications. Betsy sent template ideas to all the board members and brought hard copy for those who wanted them.

### **III. Action Items from Previous Meeting**

- **Audiology Consultant.** Dr. James Dean, Au.D, was hired in December to serve in this capacity. MNHP sent out a letter to all audiologists with the announcement. Another letter went out to the audiologists re: the new reporting form which began on March 1. Jim will come to the next meeting to give a brief overview of the work he has already done and what the plans are for the future. A lot of good work has already been done, and we have a lot of plans for work.
- **Legislative Updates:**
  - o Mandated reporting by audiologists became law on Sept 21, 2007. A copy of the legislation was put in the meeting packets. Rules still need to be written to clarify this legislation.
  - o Data Sharing. A copy of this is also in the meeting packet. This is being heard during the current legislative session and has passed both the House and Senate and waiting for the Governor to sign. It will then become law 90 days after the legislative session ends. This will allow MNHP to share newborn hearing data with the other New England states.
  - o Work Group for Early Childhood Hearing Loss. The final report of this group has just been completed and is due to be presented to the Health and Human Services committee on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Betsy will be there representing MNHP. There are two mandates being recommended by the work group. One will require hospitals to make a follow-up appointment with an audiologist for all children who refer on their hearing screen. The other mandate is that MNHP will provide the legislature with a report on the findings from the analysis scheduled to be done next FY on access to audiologists.
  - o One thing that MNHP has proposed in the HRSA grant is to provide funding to have some audiologists provide services to underserved areas of Maine (Hancock and Washington counties, for example) and to possibly provide some mentoring to audiologists who work in those areas but do not currently provide pediatric services.
- **Advisory Board Guidelines.** The updated version discussed at the September 2007 meeting has gone through the approval process and is now complete. A copy of the guidelines was included in the meeting packet.

### **IV. New Agenda Items**

- **Advisory Board Tasks/ Subcommittees.** We discussed formalizing the subcommittees for the Board as had been discussed at a previous meeting. The suggested committees are as follows:
  - o Specialty Provider List.
    - this subcommittee has almost completed its work. They have been working for the past year on developing a database that will allow specialty providers (like teachers of the deaf, speech language pathologists, etc) to submit their contact and service information to the database so that the public could search for these services. The subcommittee has already

defined the specialties and now needs to work on locating someone to create the database and to create the form that the specialty providers would complete for inclusion on the list. Some of the work of this group would require occasional face-to-face meetings, although much of the remaining work can be done via email/phone or online meetings.

- Romy will maintain responsibility for this group. Other members who had already agreed to serve on this group are: Karen Hopkins, Louise Packness, Kristen Shorey and Karen Perry.
- Romy will send out the report of this subcommittee to the entire board membership.
- Discussed the idea of finding a college student looking for a project who would be willing to set up the Access database needed for this to work. Betsy will contact the ChildLINK (MNHP database) staff to see if they know of someone.

**Action Items:**

**Next Steps:** Betsy to contact ChildLINK and Romy to send report to entire board

**Responsible Person:** Betsy and Romy

**Time Frame:** done

- o Membership
  - Helps the MNHP coordinator with filling vacancies on the Board and sending the applicants names and information to the Governor for appointment. This subcommittee is only needed when there is a vacancy on the board and most, if not all, of this work can be done via email/phone.
  - Kristen Shorey and Karen Perry volunteered to serve on this.
- o Educational materials:
  - Creates/ edits educational materials. Current ideas for new educational materials include: providing a ‘standardized message’ for birth facilities to give to families about newborn hearing screening and a handout about newborn hearing screening that will be provided for childbirth classes and OB/GYN offices.
  - Louise Packness agreed to maintain responsibility for this subcommittee. Other members who agreed to serve are: Eileen Peterson, Romy Spitz, Karen Hopkins, Carrie Ouellette and Karen Perry
- o Survey
  - This subcommittee would need to work with the MNHP to develop the Family Satisfaction Survey. Plans for this group include meeting with the Massachusetts EHDI (Early Hearing Detection & Intervention) coordinator to learn more about the process and working with the Maine CDC evaluation person to help develop the form.
  - Cindy Brown and Karen Hopkins volunteered to serve on this subcommittee and Romy Spitz also mentioned she might be able to serve as well.
- o Rules:
  - Helps to write/edit the Maine Newborn Hearing program rules when changes are made to legislation that affects the Program. Once the Board has approved the rules, they still need to go to DHHS/Legislative review

and depending on the legislation, etc, also are put out to public comment. This subcommittee should be able to do most, if not all, of their work via emails.

- Deb Stroud and Romy Spitz volunteered for this group.
- o Betsy will send out the information about these subcommittees to those members not present at the meeting and request they volunteer as well.

**Action Items:**

**Next Steps:** 1. Betsy to contact absent MNHP board members about serving on subcommittees  
2. Betsy to mail contact info on all board members to the entire membership to facilitate communication.

**Responsible Person:** Betsy

**Time Frame:** 1.done. (No responses from absent members at time minutes were mailed)  
2. Contact info sent with meeting minutes. (Note that Carrie Ouellette's last name is changing to Chojnowski in June.)

**V. 2008 EHDI Conference Follow-up**

- Betsy, Toni, and Vivian went as representatives of MNHP. Others who attended from Maine were: Karen Hopkins and Lynn Schardel from ECFS, Shihfen Tu, Craig Mason, and Quansheng Song from ChildLINK, and Dr. Brenda Medlin, our EHDI Chapter Champion.
- One new aspect of the conference was that time was set aside for each state to have a meeting there and to work on plans for the next year. This plan was then submitted to the NCHAM people who will work with us to help us meet the goals we set.
- The Board requested that Toni be asked to mail out the draft of our State form to the membership.
- Vivian, Karen and Lynn did a presentation at the conference that was very well received. Betsy suggested that they give the presentation at an upcoming Board meeting.

**Action Items:**

**Next Steps:** Betsy to ask Toni to send out Maine EHDI draft plan (note since the Board meeting, we have received this plan from the NCHAM people, so Betsy will include it with the minutes)

**Responsible Person:** Betsy

**Time Frame:** To be included with the Board minutes

**VI. JCIH Position Paper Discussion (Joint Committee on Infant Hearing)**

- The position paper as well as a checklist provided by ASHA (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association) for each EHDI program to see how they are doing was provided in the meeting packets. Betsy already completed a draft form of how Maine EHDI is doing.
- Some of the suggested changes we might consider in Maine include: for newborn screening both ears should be tested each time and the most recent test would be considered the result. (If a child initially passes and then subsequently refers, they would be considered a refer)

- Deb Stroud offered to bring this information forward to the Perinatal Nurse Manager's group. Betsy has been asked to attend one of their upcoming meetings to discuss the potential changes in our hearing screen protocols.
- The Board will continue to review these recommendations and discuss them at an upcoming Board meeting.

**VII. Networking/ Sharing info**

- **ECFS-Karen Hopkins:** They have just gotten approval to share data with MNHP. Betsy and Karen will be working on getting this moving forward.
- **Hands and Voices:** Upcoming meeting. Information provided in meeting packet.
- **AG Bell:** Carrie Ouellette provided brochures on their upcoming conference, Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**VIII. Plan for next meeting:**

- Items to be included on the agenda are: Jim Dean presenting on the Audiology consultant role. Karen Hopkins, Lynn Schardel and Vivian Mikhail giving their presentation from the EHDI Conference.
- Betsy will ask Janet Farrell, the MA EHDI Coordinator and our NCHAM support person to attend the September meeting and to spend some extra time with the survey subcommittee members before the formal Board meeting.

**\*\*\*NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 12-4 at the Senator. Agenda will be sent out approximately one month prior to the meeting.**